

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 5, 2015
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 853
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 853. This bill establishes a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. The Department supports this bill but would defer to the DLIR.

The Department has been participating in the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board that was created by Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Along with the DLIR, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and a representative from the farming community, discussions have been held to find ways to increase our current agricultural workforce. Recent numbers from the 2012 US Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend and we look forward to continued collaboration with our brother and sister agencies and the public to achieve this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 8:30am

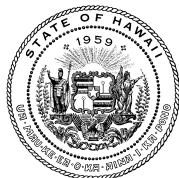
By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Maria Gallo, Dean
And
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 853 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, of HB 853, which establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

HB 853 will implement the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board, of which the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is a member. Although we defer to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on the fiscal and management implications of HB 853, we believe that implementation of this recommendation will greatly assist in the development of an educated and well-trained agricultural workforce in Hawai'i, and complements such related efforts as Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Farm to School programming.

Should HB 853 be considered a viable approach by the legislature and the referenced departments, we will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote agricultural workforce development and further the goal of agricultural self-sufficiency in Hawai'i.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
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Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 3, 2015

To: The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair,
The Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 312, State Capitol

From: Elaine Young, Acting Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 853 Relating to Agriculture

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB853 proposes to add a new section to Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which establishes within the department a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators regarding agricultural self-sufficiency. The bill includes establishment of a coordinator position and necessary staff to carry out this initiative.

The department supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities in the Executive Budget.

II. CURRENT LAW

Chapter 371-19 established the Hawaii Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board to advise the department on developing the next generation of agricultural workers; developing a mission, objectives, and goals of the Board; developing partnerships to further goals of the Board; supporting local chapters of FFA; and recommending projects that expand the agricultural workforce in Hawaii.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board was an outgrowth from a series of Agricultural Skill Panels convened on all counties in 2013. Over 600 stakeholders

collectively identified issues regarding expansion of the agricultural workforce and developed recommendations for their resolution. The Hawaii Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board reviewed Skill Panel recommendations contained in the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report and recommended the language reflected in this bill. The biggest potential source of agricultural workers is Hawaii's youth, therefore, the Board focused on widening the pipeline of students to the agricultural workforce.

Interest in agriculture is waning among Hawaii youth because they have an inaccurate perception of farming as a low-paying, low-skilled trade and are not aware of the increasingly technical nature of jobs in the industry. To update teachers and school administrators about the current state of agricultural jobs, this bill proposes to provide them training, with exposure to real-life settings for students and teachers. The intended result is to generate interest and excitement for jobs in agriculture that can be passed on to students and promote expansion of the agricultural workforce.

For these reasons, the department supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities in the Executive Budget.

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:01 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB853

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 5, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 853
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 853 which establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

DLIR, under Director Takamine's and HDOA Chair Kokubun's leadership, undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011, when its report was published. This report: *Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report*, made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes is 'Increasing youth education and training'.

It is common knowledge that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is about 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convened, in part, to execute the recommendations of *Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report*. This bill, HB 853, is a product of the Advisory Board. It establishes a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing agricultural curriculums. This is an important first step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

Please give HB853 your strong support.

Mahalo!

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB853

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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House Committee on Agriculture

The Hon. Clift Tsuji, Chair

The Hon. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 853

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 5, 2015, 8:30 am, Room 312

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 853, establishing a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 853 speaks to several of these social determinants by (1) seeking to expand working knowledge for Hawaii's youth, (2) promote the production of healthy, local foods, and (3) develop an active agriculture workforce.

For these reasons, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Strong support of HB 853
Establishes a k-12 Agriculture Workforce
Development Pipeline Initiative

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February 5, 2015, 8:30 AM in House conference room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association and we are in direct support of the intent of HB 853.

The goal of promoting and sustaining the development of the agriculture industry in the State of Hawaii is a laudable one indeed and should be approached from both short-term and long-term vantage points. HB 853 seeks to lay the groundwork for a longer term but more impactful tactic which would involve teachers at the K-12 levels. We join our fellow members in the agriculture sector in advocating for resources that would bring this worthwhile initiative into fruition.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of HB 853.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

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February 4, 2015

TO: Chair Clift Tsuji & Vice Chair Richard Onishi and members of the Committee

FROM: David Fuertes,
Retired DOE Agriculture Education
Former Executive Director Hawaii State FFA Foundation
Natural Farmer & Rancher Hawaii Island

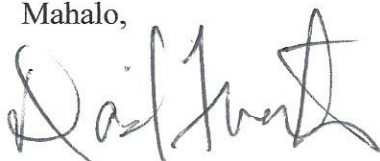
RE: HB 853 Relating to Agriculture

I am in support of this HB 853 which establishes a K-12 training teachers and administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. I am a true believer in empowering people with the skills necessary to be self-sufficient beginning with our youth. As a former Agriculture teacher of over 30 years in this State, I have been proud to see former students become the Leaders in my community and great State of Hawaii.

Teachers and administrators are the greatest influence in each child's future. That's why I believe in "training the trainers" concept to give them the tools by which to bring about a new generation of agriculturalist in best practices, enabling them to become leaders in our community. It is dire that we as an island state, be more self-sufficient in food resiliency and more importantly to reach out to all residents educating them in "Kuleana of our land." Education is a means to this end.

Please consider creating these opportunities via HB 853.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Fuertes", written in a cursive style.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/05/2015
Time: 08:30 AM
Location: 312
Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0853 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in DLIR to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. Appropriates moneys to support the initiative.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of HB 853 to establish a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to guide training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency, but defers to DLIR.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 6:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB853

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Development of a coordinated framework and support for agricultural education K-20 will be essential to build our agricultural economy. Currently there are 195/258 school gardens/farms in Hawai'i that need DOA/DOE/DLIR support. Please support the programs that are already in place in 195 public schools across Hawai'i. Mahalo, Nancy Redfeather Hawai'i Island School Garden Network - Director FoodCorps Hawai'i - State Supervisor The Kohala Center

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB853

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii strongly SUPPORTS HB 853, which proposes to establish a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. HB 853 also proposes to appropriate moneys to support the initiative.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 7:50 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: paul.massey@ribg.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB853

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Massey	Regenerations International Botanical Garden	Support	No

Comments:

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